L3

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Computing (Certificate)

Qualification Number: 610/6194/3

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Computing (Certificate) is designed for post-16 students with an interest in the Digital sector and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Equivalent to half an A level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in computing as part of a study programme alongside 3 A levels. This qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of Computing and Software Development which will facilitate progression into multiple disciplines in HE that have digital aspects in their courses.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

The qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives and sector experts to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to progress to, and thrive in, higher education.

The qualification has one mandatory unit and a choice from two optional units covering the following topic areas:

- **Programming Fundamentals** – Computing concepts and their application through programming and design methodologies
- **Human-Computer Interaction** – User experience (UX) and user interface (UI) design principles and their application in creating interfaces
- **Practical Programming** – Principles of computer science related to software development and their application in developing and managing a software solution.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills:

- Applied knowledge and understanding of programming design and methodologies and principles of software development in relation to solving specific problems
- Technical skills to:

- Create a design proposal for an accessible HCI solution to meet the requirements of a brief and develop and evaluate the solution
- Manage the development of a software solution to meet the requirements of a brief.

Students will develop critical thinking skills which will be beneficial when encountering analytical tasks in higher education. Taking personal responsibility for their learning on this qualification will help students to manage their work and balance the demands of degree programmes which require independent study.

This qualification is part of a suite. This size provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the digital sector to progress into the sector through degree or degree apprenticeship pathways. It also allows for progression onto degree programmes with significant Computing content, which is the case in many sectors.

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Computing (Extended Certificate), equivalent to one A Level, is for those students who require additional Computing knowledge and skills to progress into Higher Education to study degrees that have programming or computing elements within them.

Which subjects will complement this qualification?

The following subjects would be suitable to combine with this qualification:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Design and Technology
- Business

What further learning will this qualification lead to?

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSc (Hons) Computer Science
- BSc (Hons) Electrical Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence

This qualification is supported by the following Higher Education Institutions:

- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Edge Hill University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Ulster University

- University of Bradford
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Hull
- University of Plymouth
- University of the West of England

Further information

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/computing-aaq.html